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Dr. La Fayette Guild.



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Sketch Of

Dr. La Fayette Guild

Medical Director and Chief Surgeon

Of the

Army of Northern Virginia

Professor, now the medical hospital

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G 95

Life
Mrs. J. H. Johnson
Dec. 15 16

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Dr. La Fayette Guild

Medical Director and Chief Surgeon

Of

The Army Of Northern Virginia



BIOGRAPHICAL sketch of this gifted man will treat in a great measure of the Confederacy, a theme always dear to the Southerner's heart. From the time he was appointed on General Lee's staff to the closing scenes at Appomattox, he saw the most active service, being frequently exposed on the fiercest battle-fields. The life of Dr. Guild is replete with fine incident, and it is believed that this sketch will be of interest to all patriotic Alabamians.

Dr. La Fayette Guild was born Nov. 24th, 1825, being the second son of Dr. James Guild and Mary Elizabeth Williams. His mother's family were prominent lawyers and statesmen; from them he inherited the logical and comprehensive trend of mind that led him to discern cause and effect in scientific research and medicine phenomena; directly from his father he received the natural surgeon's deft touch and keen, unflinching eye.

The elder Dr. Guild was thus characterized by Dr. Peter Bryce, another Tuscaloosa physician of world wide fame: "As a practitioner in the several departments of both medicine and surgery. The success of Dr. James Guild was truly remarkable and probably there are few physicians or surgeons occupy-

ing the limited field he did who have enjoyed a higher or more extended reputation. In fact there is hardly an operation known to modern surgery that he did not perform. Had he enjoyed larger opportunities I have no hesitation in expressing the opinion that he would have been the equal of Gross or Mott. The people of Alabama can never know how much the success of this noble charity (the hospital for the insane) is due to Dr. Guild's timely aid in tiding it over the difficulties that once threatened to engrief it."

Family tradition among the Guilds has handed down many incidents of La Fayette's childhood, while they are trivial in themselves, but interesting because they show his bravery, intelligence and generosity to have been innate, forecasting his illustrious and honorable manhood. The same child, who defended his playmate from a large and ferocious dog, prevented a serious encounter between fellow-students of the University.

The Guild estate embraced a tract of land on the outskirts of Tuscaloosa, whose shady groves and clear murmuring brook were the happy hunting grounds of the Guild boys and their comrades. While damming the branch as normal boys ever have and ever will, La Fayette was attracted and puzzled by a layer of curious black stones. His interest and determination to know, even at that early age, caused him to take some of these black stones to his father, who turned them over to the geologist of the University nearby, and the first record of coal in that district was the result. Coal was not commonly known, nor generally used in the South until about 1834 and many years elapsed before Alabama realized she possessed a rich deposit of these black diamonds, which would one day develop into a vast and profitable industry.

La Fayette Guild grew to manhood and pursued his studies at the University of Alabama surrounded by every advantage of a cultured Christian home and the refining and stimulating influence of society in an educational center. He was graduated from the University in 1845, receiving the A. M. degree. He then went to Philadelphia to study medicine.

Those who knew his tender sympathetic nature were not surprised to hear that he fainted when he first witnessed the dissection of a human cadaver; nor were they dubious when a grateful fellow-student wrote that La Fayette Guild had saved his life by sucking the poison from an accidental wound inflicted while operating. In 1848 he received his degree of M. D. from the Jefferson Medical College, then the best of its kind. As surely as his inherited tendencies led him to study medicine, so surely did his chivalrous devotion to duty and love of adventure lead him to adopt the military phase of the medical profession. In the spring of 1849 he became an assistant surgeon in the U. S. A.

His first assignment was to Key West, Florida, the U. S. Army there had charge of the remnants of Seminole Indians, and Dr. Guild afterward saw the famous Indian chief commonly known among the Americans as Billy Bowlegs. Billy was the last of the chiefs who had fought so desperately under the famous warrior Osceola, but Billy knew when discretion was the better part of valor and was very polite and friendly to the U. S. A. officers. Dr. Guild once dined with Billy Bowlegs, and the old chief who was a slave owner had one standing behind his chair holding a huge bandanna handkerchief, which was handed the chief as occasion demanded. Dr. Guild was also stationed at Fort Barrancas, Florida.

General Gorgas was at Barrancas at that time and Mrs. Gorgas, now the beloved librarian of the University of Alabama and the queen of its students and of the alumni, recently said when asked about their relations with Dr. Guild in that distant day: "I have the greatest devotion and admiration for the memory of Dr. La Fayette Guild. I remember particularly his fondness for my little boy now stationed at Panama. At Barrancas he would often take the little fellow in his arms and give him his morning bath, afterwards holding him up in the palm of his hand and calling the attention of his brother-officers to the little Hercules, as he would call him. Barrancas was the last port of the old Army where we were stationed together, but during the Civil War the families met frequently on Dr. Guild's visits from the front, the children would always look for his coming with that glee of affection with which his passionate love for children imbued them. His devotion to children, especially mine, during the sojourn at Richmond, was remarkable. The mutual esteem between General Gorgas and Dr. Guild was never abated during the War, and the confidence and admiration each had for the other was lasting and true."

This seems especially interesting in view of the fact that Dr. Guild has been called the proto-type of Dr. W. C. Gorgas, "the little Hercules." That "history repeats itself" is an ancient axiom newly illustrated by the co-incidence that Tuscaloosa has given the medical world two such eminent sons as the two thus linked together. Present day dispatches chronicle Dr. Gorgas' marvellous skill in ridding the Isthmus of Panama of mosquitoes, malaria and yellow fever, preparatory to the cutting of the great canal which is to double the South's prosperity and popula-

tion. Dr. Guild's brilliant record in the Civil War somewhat casts into shadow his career prior to that time, but before this crisis in his country arose he was an enthusiastic pioneer in scientific research.

After leaving Florida, Dr. Guild served as Assistant Surgeon and Quarantine Inspector at Governor's Island. Here his knowledge of yellow fever, acquired in Florida, was valuable in preventing the spread of this scourge from infected ships arriving from the tropics. Here he wrote a treatise on yellow fever, which was published by the government, in which he argued that this fever was infectious, but not contagious, then a new but now an accepted theory. In fact all of Dr. Guild's medical papers were original and far in advance of his time, besides displaying great literary merit. And it is to be hoped that the movement now on foot to collect and preserve these documents will succeed. About this time a meat biscuit was compounded and issued to the Army for rations. Dr. Guild after a close and conscientious examination of this meat biscuit, condemned it as impracticable and unwholesome, and its use was discontinued. One surgeon of like discernment and courage during the Spanish-American War might have prevented the use of embalmed beef, which victimized more American soldiers than all the Spanish bullets. Early in Dr. Guild's army career, General Trigg remarked: "Guild is bound to win distinction if he doesn't turn d— fool and marry." The doctor paid but little heed to this prediction. In 1851 he married Martha Aylette Fitts, of Mobile, Alabama. Their union proved happy, this little woman cheerfully sharing the hardships of army post life in the West, where he was soon afterward transferred. Dr. Guild's devotion to his wife and all his relatives was most noticeable; he

seemed willing to die for family or friend. He was most unselfish and could see no fault in those he loved; poetic and artistic in his temperament; he had a passionate love and appreciation of the beauties of home, which the exigencies of army life rendered impracticable. Dr. Guild's letters to relatives in Tuscaloosa, especially those to his revered father, were always interesting, but his description of the wild and then little known West were particularly vivid and picturesque. Among the officers he served with out there was General Harvie, considered the greatest Indian fighter of his day. Dr. Guild witnessed many of the feats of personal prowess and physical strength which caused General Harvie to be looked upon by the Indians as something almost supernatural.

Dr. Guild's merit and popularity advanced him rapidly and he was soon made full surgeon at Fort Humbolt, Cal., under General Albert Sydney Johnston, who then commanded the Pacific Coast Division U. S. A. At Fort Humbolt Dr. Guild adopted two little Yokin Indians, a boy and a girl. The boy was a prince or chief, the last of his tribe, which had been exterminated in a tribal raid; he was entrusted by his dying grandfather to the kind surgeon whose noble generosity and strong tenderness seemed to impress friend and foe alike. The other little Indian was a girl whom Dr. Guild had found when a papoose strapped to her dead mother's back, the only living creature in a pile of dead. The feeble wail of this papoose from a ravine attracted Dr. Guild's attention as he rode by heart-sick at these endless battles between tribes. He unearthed the wailing mite of humanity from the ravine and took her to her tender-hearted wife who christened her Ravina and had her tenderly cared for.

Many men thus honored in the established Army

and severed by time and distance from old ties, would have remained where position was secure and advancement probable. But Dr. Guild was convinced of the sacredness of State's Rights and felt the call of love and duty to his native section. So upon hearing of the first rupture between the North and South he refused to renew his oath of allegiance to the Union. He and his wife, accompanied by their little Indian proteges, then hastened through dangers and hardships incredible to modern travelers from the Pacific Coast to the South, thus voluntarily sacrificing not only his high position, but all their accumulated means. The position attained by him in the old Army is attested by the following letter:

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3rd., 1870.

SIR:—

Referring to your communication of the 27th ulto., I enclose history of the services of Dr. LaFayette Guild while a member of the Medical Staff of the Army, as shown upon the records of this office. His standing in the corps, professionally and in all other respects, was very high.

Very Respectfully, Your Obedient Servant,

E. H. CRANE, Ass. Surgeon-General.

By order of the Surgeon-General U. S. A.

As soon as Dr. Guild saw his wife and charges safe in Tuscaloosa, he reported for duty in Richmond. Immediately upon his arrival there, in July, 1861, he was appointed Surgeon in the Confederate Army, to rank from March 16th, 1861. In August he was made Inspector of Hospitals throughout the South. This duty he performed with characteristic skill and fidelity, then returned promptly to the front. The old Army being comparatively small, Dr. Guild had known most of the officers, both those who remained in the U. S. A. and those who, like himself, now fought under the Stars and Bars. He had long enter-

tained the highest regard for General Joseph E. Johnston and with many others, considered him one of the finest strategists in either army. The two couples, General and Mrs. Johnston and Dr. and Mrs. Guild were intimate friends. When General Johnston was wounded in the Battle of Seven Pines and General Lee took charge, one of Lee's first inquiries was: "Where is Dr. Guild? Tell him to report to me in person." There on the battlefield Lee selected Dr. Guild for his chief medical officer and from that day until the close of the War, Dr. Guild's official position was Medical Director and Chief Surgeon of the Army of Northern Virginia, which of course made him an aide on Lee's staff.

How well he filled this responsible position is shown by the Confederate Records, but only a few authentic instances remain to prove the intimate personal relations that existed between the Great Commander and his Chief Surgeon. When Lee invaded Pennsylvania he passed through a town whose inhabitants demonstrated their excessive hostility to the Confederates in many unpleasant ways. The ladies waved Union flags from every window, hissing and jeering meanwhile. General Lee turned to one of the aides riding at his side and said: "Bring Drs. Guild and Breckenridge to the front." When the surgeons arrived, the old General, with a grim smile, placed one on either side and thus escorted rode through the town without further feminine protest. He afterwards remarked he was sure the ladies would not ridicule two (he should have said three) such handsome men and splendid horsemen. This was a public acknowledgment of the fact that Dr. Guild had an unusually perfect and pleasing face and figure, with genial yet commanding manners and a personal charm that amounted to magnetism.

As the above incident is in connection with Dr. Breckenridge, the following in connection with General Breckenridge will not be out of place. Joe the Indian protege was now old enough to follow Dr. Guild to the front. This little incident will also illustrate in a measure the status in the Army of this little Indian. Joe, or Beauregundy, as was his Indian name, was allowed many privileges, and on account of his spirit and bright intellect, saw and heard much of the officers company and conversation. One bleak day, while the army was in winter quarters, Dr. Guild had General John C. Breckenridge to dine with him, and on the way to the "mess" tent, Gen. Breckenridge saw and admired a very fine bird dog, owned by Dr. Guild, whereupon the big-hearted surgeon presented him to his friend. After the meal was finished, and the General was preparing to leave, his first thought was of the beautiful pointer which had suddenly disappeared. None of the servants nor Joe seemed to know what had become of the dog. Some one giving the General a hint, it dawned upon him, that probably the little Indian knew, and was the cause of the sudden, unaccountable disappearance. However, the General kept quiet, biding his time, and when the Indian came in reach of him, he suddenly seized him by the hair, taking a carving knife, and threatened to scalp him. Both of these little Indians had always shown fear by instinctively clasping their hands over their heads. Amid the yells of the Indian and laughter of the officers, the General promised not to scalp him if he would restore the dog, so Joe consented to get the dog. Thereupon being released from the gigantic grasp of the General, the little Indian ran off to some distance, and being clear of any possibility of recapture, turned and facing the enemy—the General,

said, "Look here, Gen. Breckenridge, I'll be d——d if you shall have that dog," and fled to the woods as only the wind or an Indian can. Overhearing Dr. Guild offering the dog to the General, the Indian, whose devotion embraced both master and dog, had secretly concealed the animal in the woods, and the General never got his dog. This serves to illustrate the Indian's spirit, and the generous nature of his Master.

Dr. Guild's versatile tastes ranged from scientific research to an appreciation of the lights and shadows flickering on the home walls; he was fond of the beauties of nature, often describing the grandeur of Western scenery, especially Wild Rose Pass to his comrades around the camp fire. He appreciated and encouraged the artistic tendencies of his young sister, little dreaming that her art (and heart) when ripened would preserve his features and fame when Alabama enrolled him among the honored in her State Archives. That Dr. Guild won and held the esteem of his illustrious chief is evidenced by the fact that Lee embodied his Chief Surgeon's report of the battle of Gettysburg in his official account on the War Records. And when Lee was ill in '70 he asked his attending physician to write to Dr. Guild for his diagnosis and successful treatment of a former attack of a similar nature. Dr. Guild's answer was the last letter he ever wrote. He went through the ordeal of the Surrender at Appomattox with his beloved leader and was paroled on April 9th, 1865. Soon afterward he wrote the following letter to General Lee:

CITY POINT, VIRGINIA, May 5th. 1865.

GENERAL:—

We sail tomorrow from Fort Monroe to Mobile, Ala., and before leaving Virginia (probably forever) I cannot withhold an expression of my warm and devoted attachment to you both personally and officially. Under your

guidance the true and good men of the Army of Northern Virginia were ever ready to follow, whether our march led to victory or defeat; so well assured were we all that virtue, honor and justice, with a Christian fear of the Almighty God, were the principles that actuated and inspired your conduct. To belong to General Lee's defeated Army is now the proudest boast of a Confederate soldier. Though overwhelmed by superior numbers and compelled to surrender, we yet preserve our honor as men and soldiers. "May the calamity which has befallen us be sanctified to the good of us all, and may the richest blessings of Heaven be vouchsafed to our noble Commander-in-Chief.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

Your Obedient servant,

L. GUILD, Medical Director, A. N. Va.

Some one has truly observed: "While so much has been written, and very properly too, commemorative of the strategic skill of our great leaders and the glorious achievements of our gallant soldiery, it is to be regretted that so little has been published commendatory of the "medical profession" during the progress of the War. Among the rank and file of the army, next in their affections to the successful commander who led them to victory was the skillful surgeon who was ever ready to bind their wounds, minister to their sufferings and provide for their wants when the casualties of battle demanded. True heroism can be exhibited in any of the ranks of life. It was surely demonstrated in many instances by the Medical Staff of the Army of Northern Virginia."

As indicated in his farewell letter to Lee, Dr. Guild went to Mobile at the close of the war. Like many other Confederates he found himself at middle-age penniless and health broken by his arduous campaigns; but with heart undaunted and sustained by the consciousness of rectitude and a sense of duty well done. He intended to establish himself in his profession of medicine, but his fame was too

widespread and his capacity too evident to allow him to remain long a private practitioner. Upon the appearance of an epidemic of yellow fever in Mobile he was made Quarantine Inspector and during the ensuing scourge he led the fight which finally defeated dread Yellow Jack.

When this assiduous campaign was over, Dr. Guild and his wife determined to seek health and wealth in the golden West where they had been so happy before war, strife and disease had darkened their lives. In 1869 they returned to San Francisco. There, as elsewhere, Dr. Guild's scientific and professional pre-eminence was at once recognized.

Amid the scenes and memories of a happier time his eye rekindled its former fire just for a moment to pierce the secrets of his science; and his hand recovered its cunning only long enough to inscribe his name upon the scroll of fame in an exhibition of his professional skill which a generous family hailed with delight. But while he relieved the pangs of others he could only endure his own until the conquered body released a spirit which it had vainly striven to subdue.

Dr. La Fayette Guild died of rheumatism of the heart on July 4th, 1879, at the age of 44, at Marysville, Cal., whither he was sojourning in hope of relief. The remarkably deep impression he made during his brief residence in San Francisco was attested by the following:

TRIBUTE OF RESPECT.

TO THE MEMORY OF DR. LA FAYETTE GUILD BY THE
BOARD OF HEALTH OF SAN FRANCISCO.

At a meeting of the honorable Board of the City and County of San Francisco, held this day, a committee consisting of J. Campbell Shorb, M. D. and Gustavus Holland, M. D. was appointed to draft appropriate resolutions on the decease of La Fayette Guild, M. D., late visit-

ing surgeon of the City and County Hospital; and in pursuance thereof the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, It has pleased Almighty God to remove from our midst and a sphere of usefulness, Dr. La Fayette Guild, an amiable gentleman, accomplished physican and surgeon, and valuable citizen, and,

WHEREAS, It is highly right and proper that the Board of Health should in fitting terms express their high appreciation of his worth, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That in the death of Dr. La Fayette Guild, the Board of Health are profoundly impressed with a loss to ourselves and to the community of the services of one in every respect eminent and estimable.

RESOLVED, That the heartfelt condolence of the Board of Health follow his afflicted family and friends to their far home in the South where well-known and beloved, his death will cause the deepest sorrow.

RESOLVED, That this tribute to his memory, this sincerely felt but inadequate commemoration of the many excellent qualities of his mind and heart be spread upon the minutes of the Board, be published in the daily papers of San Francisco and a copy of the same be forwarded to his friends in Alabama.

Present his Honor,

THOMAS H. SHELBY, Mayor and Ex-officio President of the Board of Health.

GUSTAVUS HOLLAND, M. D.,

H. H. HUBBARD, M. D.,

H. H. TOLLAND, M. D.,

J. CAMPBELL SHORB, M. D.

ATTEST: WILLIAM V. WELLS, Clerk Board of Health.

Once more brave, broken-hearted Mrs. Guild began the long hard journey from the West to Tuscaloosa, this time accompanying her distinguished husband's remains. In the City of Oaks amid the scenes of his childhood and surrounded by kindred ashes Dr. Guild now lies at rest.

Among the many public expressions of sympathy and respect called forth by the untimely taking off of this noble man and eminent physician, none was more appreciative and deserving than the tribute from Dr. E. D. Newton, of Rome, Ga., which closed thus:

“In this very brief sketch of the life and services of one so endeared to the officers and soldiers of the Army of Northern Virginia, I have given but feeble expression to my high appreciation of the excellent qualities of his noble character. No language would describe him to those who knew him not, while those who enjoyed his intimate acquaintance would be pained by the futility of the effort. How can we find adequate utterance for the deep emotions of a true and earnest friendship? Yet would you have me pencil one who possessed all the elements of a chivalrous manhood, all the tenderness of a sister of charity, all the sympathy of a brotherly love, all the affection of a devoted husband, all the virtues of a Christian gentleman? Then I must bid you look for its portrayal to the life and character of LaFayette Guild.”

By Katharine Hopkins Chapman.

BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG.

REPORT OF SURGEON LA FAYETTE GUILD, CONFEDERATE STATES ARMY, MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF THE ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA.

/ MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE.

CAMP NEAR CULPEPPER COURT HOUSE,

July 29, 1863.

SIR:—

At midnight, July 3rd., after the fiercest and most sanguinary battle ever fought on this continent, the General commanding gave orders for our army to withdraw from Gettysburg, and fall back to Hagerstown. I enclose you a copy of my instructions to the

corps of Medicial Directors, issued on that occasion. (Letter not found.)

Every available means of transportation was called into requisition for removing the wounded from the field infirmaries, and on the evening of the 4th our ambulance trains took up their line of march by two routes, guarded as well as could be by our broken-down and inefficient cavalry. One train went by Cashtown, the other by Fairfield. The latter's train was attacked by a body of the enemy's cavalry, who destroyed many wagons and paroled the wounded private soldiers, but taking with them all of the officers who fell into their hands. The former train was more fortunate, however it too was attacked by the enemy, and met with some little loss in wagons and prisoners.

The poor wounded suffered very much indeed, in their rapid removal by day and night, over rough roads through mountain passes, and across streams toward the Potomac. Those who could be removed from the battle-field, and infirmaries, were concentrated at Williamsport, and transferred to the Virginia bank of the river by rafts and ferry boats, as rapidly as the swollen condition of the streams would permit.

Since my hasty and imperfect letter of the 10th inst. from the vicinity of Hagerstown, Maryland, I have not had time or opportunity to report to you more fully our movements. At Hagerstown, as I informed you in my last letter, we fully expected another battle, and prepared for it. We waited six long days, nearly every day the two armies engaged in desultory skirmishing. When the enemy made his appearance in force, instead of attacking us as we expected, he commenced fortifying himself all along our line of battle, his line being less than a mile from

ours. Our supplies for both men and animals were being rapidly exhausted, and the enemy declining battle by laying aside his muskets and taking to his picks and shovels, orders were given for us to resume our march towards the Potomac on the 13th inst. The army crossed at three points, (two fords near Williamsport, very deep and bad fords, the river being swollen, at which quite a number of animals were drowned, and the pontoon bridge at Fallen Waters) without molestation from the enemy, who contented himself with picking up stragglers. Our crossing the river without annoyance evidently shows that the enemy were badly crippled, and could not risk another general engagement. The sufferings of the wounded were distressing. Indeed the healthiest and most robust suffered extremely in crossing the river.

The head of the column commenced its passage at dark on the 13th inst. and in the afternoon of the 14th the rear guard reached the south bank. On July 15th we encamped near Bunker Hill twelve miles north of Winchester, and remained there until the 20th, refreshing the troops and removing to the rear our sick and wounded from Winchester and Jordan Springs, at which place I found about 4000 sick and wounded; steps for their removal to Staunton being immediately taken. All who could bear transportation were gotten off by the 22nd inst., less than 150 remaining at the two places. Mount Jackson and Harrisonburg have been used simply as wayside hospitals where the sick and wounded were refreshed, medical officers with supplies of all kinds being stationed at the two points; on the 22nd inst., the army resumed its march, the first and the third corps taking different routes to Front Royal and Chester Gap, where they were

convalesced, and the march continued to this point where they encamped on the 25th and are now resting after their arduous night marches through great inclemency of weather. The second army corps crossed the Blue Ridge at Thornton's Gap, south of Chester Gap, and will encamp in our vicinity to-day. Considerable sickness has been the consequence of their fatigue and exposure. Diarrhoea, dysentery, continued fever and rheumatism, preponderate.

I have prohibited the establishment of a hospital at Culpepper Court House but organized a depot for the sick and wounded who cannot be treated in camp. Those who should go to the general hospital are sent with all dispatch to Gordonsville for distribution. The sick and wounded should, in my opinion, by no means be allowed to accumulate at Gordonsville. It may be exposed, at any time, to cavalry raids and the inhuman enemy invariably, when an opportunity offers, drag our sick and wounded officers at the sacrifice of their lives into lines. Mount Jackson and Harrison in the valley of the Shenandoah, should be abandoned as hospitals as far as practicable, leaving only those patients whose lives would be endangered by transportation.

I have ordered Surgeon R. J. Breckenridge, Medical Inspector of the Army to proceed to the hospitals near the army where our sick and wounded have been sent since the battle of Gettysburg, and to have all who are fit for duty, returned to their regiments. I enclose for your information a copy of my letter of instructions to him, and order from the General Commanding. The lists of casualties have been forwarded to my office and embraces the whole army with the exception of two brigades, which I have taken steps to have made out. Our loss at Gettysburg was

very heavy, indeed numbering about 14,000 killed and wounded. The consolidated list will be furnished you at an early day. At the battle of Winchester, fought by Gen. Ewell's Corps, on June 13, 14 and 15 our loss was comparatively small, 42 killed and 210 wounded.

I will also forward to you, very soon the list of casualties, properly prepared. Complaints are very frequently made by medical officers of the line that many of the sick and wounded who are sent to general hospitals are never heard from, the hospital surgeon failing to report deaths, discharges, furloughs, etc. I would again respectfully request that means be adopted for the correction of this neglect of duty on the part of medical officers in general hospitals. I am exceedingly anxious to have a personal interview with you relative to some changes in the organization of our corps in the field, particularly in the purveying department. It is impossible for me to visit Richmond at this time, but hope soon to have an opportunity. My office is exhausted of blank forms.

Please have forwarded to me the following . . .

I am sir, very respectfully,
your obedient servant.

L. GUILD,

Medical Director, Army Northern Virginia.

SURGEON GEN. L. B. MOORE, Richmond, Va.

STAFF OF GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE.

General Lee's first service was in the western part of the State of Virginia, where he was attended at first by two Aids-de-camp:

Col. John A. Washington,

Capt. Walter H. Taylor,

and after Col. Washington was killed at Valley Mountain, Sept., 1861, by his one remaining Aide.

During his three months' service in South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, he had with him, in addition to his Aide, Capt. Taylor:

Lt. Col. Wm. G. Gill, Ordinance Officer,

Capt. Thornton A. Washington, A. A. & I. G.,

Major A. L. Long, Chief of Artillery,

Capt. Jos. C. Ives, Chief of Engineers,

Capt. Joseph Manigault, Volunteer Aide.

In March, 1862, when under a special act of Congress General Lee was assigned to duty at Richmond, a personal staff for the "Commanding General" was authorized by the said act, and the appointments made by him under it were as follows:

Col. A. L. Long, Military Secretary, Brig.

Gen. Artillery Sept. 21, 1863 to April 9, 1865.

Major Walter H. Taylor, Aide-de-camp, Lt.

Col. A. A. & I. G., Nov. 4, 1864 to April 9, 1865.

Major T. M. R. Talcott, Aide-de-camp, Lt.

Col. A. A. & I. G., Nov. 4, 1864 to April 9, 1865.

Major Charles S. Veneble, Aide-de-camp, Lt.

Col. A. A. & I. G., Nov. 4, 1864 to April 9, 1865.

Major Charles Marshall, Aide-de-camp, Lt.

Col. A. A. & I. G., Nov. 4, 1864 to April 9, 1865.

June 1st, 1862, after the battle of "Seven Pines," in which General Joseph E. Johnston was wounded, General Lee was assigned to the command of the "Army of Northern Virginia," and took with him his personal staff as above enumerated, viz: Long, Taylor, Talcott, Venable and Marshall, also retaining Capt. A. P. Mason, A. A. & I. G. of General Johnston's staff, who in March, 1863 was at his own request transferred elsewhere and Major Walter H. Taylor assumed his duties. Col. Thomas Jordan, A. A. & I. G., who had served as Adjutant General of the Army of Northern Virginia under General Johnston, voluntarily retired with him, and was replaced by Col. R. H. Chilton, A. A. & I. G., who was promoted Brig. Gen. about December 1863, and Col. Walter H. Taylor then became Adjutant General of the Army of Northern Virginia, which position he held until April 9, 1865.

CHIEFS OF DEPARTMENTS.

The Chiefs of Departments of the Army of Northern Virginia, who served under General R. E. Lee, were as follows:

- Lt. Col. E. Porter Alexander, Chief of Ordnance June 1, 1862 to Nov. 1862., Brig. Gen. Artillery to April 9, 1865.
- Lt. Col. Briscoe G. Baldwin, Chief of Ordnance Nov. 1862 to April 9, 1865.
- Lt. Col. Robert G. Cole, Chief Commissary June 1, 1862 to April 9, 1865.
- Lt. Col. James L. Corley, Chief Quartermaster June 1, 1862 to April 9, 1865.
- Surgeon La Fayette Guild, Medical Director June 25, 1862 to April 9, 1865.
- Brig. Gen. W. N. Pendleton, Chief of Artillery Mar. 6, 1863 to April 9, 1865.

Col. George W. Lay, A. A. & I. G., Mar. 6, 1863 to April 9, 1865.

Major Henry E. Peyton, A. A. & I. G., Nov. 1862 to Nov. 4, 1864., Lt. Col. A. A. & I. G. to April 9, 1865.

Lt. Col. E. Murray, A. A. & I. G., Sept. 1863 to Nov. 4, 1864.

Major Giles B. Cooke, A. A. & I. G., Nov. 4, 1864 to April 9, 1865.

Capt. Henry E. Young, Judge Advocate General, Sept. 1863 to Nov. 4, 1864 and Maj. A. A. & I. G. to April 9, 1865.

Lt. Col. Wm. P. Smith, Chief of Engineers, Sept. 1863 to 1864.

Col. W. H. Stevens, Chief of Engineers, 1864 and Brig. Gen. in April, 1865.

Capt. Sam'l R. Johnson, Engineer Officer, Nov. 1865 and Lt. Col. in April, 1865.

ADDENDA.

The following beautiful tribute to Dr. Guild is from the pen of Maj. Henry E. Young, Judge Advocate General, of Gen. Lee's Staff, who is living in Charleston, S. C., an attorney at law and very prominent in his profession. It will be remembered that Maj. Young and Dr. Guild were brother officers on the staff of one of the greatest men and generals of any age. Associated as they were under the most trying situations to which men and soldiers are subjected, they knew each other well, and had the truest appreciation of the worth and faults in the character of each other; and what one would say or write of the other carries a force and enduring influence for truth that no other circumstances could produce.

LA FAYETTE GUILD, M. D.

When I joined Gen. Lee's Staff, I found Dr. Guild a member of it and as head of the Medical Department of the Army with the distinguished assistance of Drs. Breckenridge, Wingfield, Wingate and Geddings. Efficient in all he did, Dr. Guild made his department one of the most effective. Urbane and yet firm, he spread around him an air of politeness and courtesy, but required exact discharge of duty.

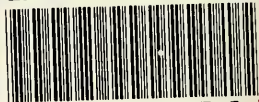
No sick or wounded soldier ever failed to feel the effect of his active and kind influence. The fact that during the time he was in charge of the Medical Department of the Army of Northern Virginia, he enjoyed the confidence and esteem of General Lee and his fellow officers, is the best proof of his lofty character and his high attainments, and his faithful discharge of duty.

"He wore without reproach the Grand Old Name of Gentleman."

H. E. YOUNG,
Maj. of A. G. A. N. V.

Charleston, March 24, '09.

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